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INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

27 May 1977

NOTE FOR THE DDCI

FROM: Richard J. Kerr
Executive Officer
Intelligence Community Staff

SUBJECT: FOCUS South Africa

At the Tuesday Planning Board meeting with the DCI, you asked about the possibility of a FOCUS study on South Africa. Attached is a FOCUS South Africa that was completed earlier this year. Although it could be updated it still is current. As you know, a special FOCUS on the Sub-Sahara is in the final stages of preparation and should be completed within the next week or so.

In addition, the NIO for Africa did a review of the impact on U. S. intelligence collection should relations between the U. S. and South Africa be broken. This report was done within the last several months.

Att.

Richard J. Kerr

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

8 March 1977

The Honorable William G. Bowdler
The American Ambassador
Pretoria, South Africa

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Ambassador Little in his letter of September 1, 1976 informed you of the conduct of FOCUS South Africa, describing its nature and scope and inviting your participation. Your responsive analysis of reporting problems and opportunities as viewed from Pretoria was very useful in the FOCUS South Africa process. You were informed subsequently of the unavoidable three-month delay in conducting the exercise; I am now pleased to advise you that FOCUS South Africa is completed, and I enclose the original copy of the final report for your information and use. You should also be aware that a more comprehensive Intelligence Community review of the greater southern African region is underway. The results of this regional review will be made available later.

FOCUS reviews draw heavily upon the views and experience of the National Intelligence Officer for the area concerned and of responsible policy officers, intelligence analysts and collection managers from throughout the Intelligence Community. The reviews attempt to assess the adequacy and responsiveness to needs of current reporting as well as to identify and if possible prioritize information which will be needed in the months ahead. In the case of South Africa there was general agreement that despite existing constraints on reporting, the Mission had done a very good job in meeting the requirements of policymakers and intelligence analysts.

Since the beginning of the FOCUS program two years ago, we have continued to find FOCUS helpful to those of us in Washington concerned with reporting from abroad. We hope to extend the value of these efforts to the overseas mission, which has such a key role in the entire national intelligence process. FOCUS South Africa has been helpful to us; we hope it can be helpful to you and your country team.

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If you have any comments with regards to the findings or see ways by which we can strengthen our support of your Embassy, please let me know.

Sincerely,



E. H. Knoche
Acting Director

Attachment:
FOCUS South Africa

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